

**Claims**

- 5 1. A method of monitoring and/or modulating disease-associated  
activatory processes comprising determining and/or influencing the  
amount and/or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms in a  
cell or an organism, wherein the activatory processes are triggered  
by non-apoptosis signals emanating from death receptors and/or  
10 non-apoptosis signals emanating from non-death receptor members  
of the TNF receptor family.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the activatory processes are  
triggered by receptor-crosslinking.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the activatory processes are  
triggered by non-apoptosis signals emanating from death receptors,  
particularly TRAIL-R1, TRAIL-R2, CD95, TNF-K1 (pSS TNF-R),  
TRAMD, DR6 or combinations thereof.
- 20 4. The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein the activatory processes are  
triggered by signals emanating from non-death receptor members of  
the TNF receptor family and/or members of the TLR receptor family.
- 25 5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the disease is  
selected from hyperproliferative, inflammatory and auto-immune  
diseases.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the disease is an inflammatory  
disease selected from skin inflammatory diseases and septic shock.
- 30 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the disease is a hyperproliferative  
disease selected from tumors.

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8. The method of claim 5, wherein the disease is an auto-immune disease.

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9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8 comprising monitoring the presence, amount, localization and/or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms in a sample.

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10. The method of claim 9, wherein caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms are determined on the nucleic acid level.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms are determined on the protein level.

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12. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8 comprising modulating the amount and/or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms in a cell or an organism.

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13. The method of claim 12, wherein the amount and/or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms is modulated on the nucleic acid level.

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14. The method of claim 12, wherein the amount and/or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms is modulated on the protein level.

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15. A method of identifying and/or characterizing compounds for the modulation of disease-associated activatory processes comprising determining if a test compound is capable of influencing the activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms, wherein the activatory processes are triggered by non-apoptosis signals emanating from death receptors and/or non-apoptosis signals emanating from non-death receptor members of the TNF receptor family.

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